

Livestock Inventory & Production, 1999 *By Eric D. Barnes*

The total value of all cattle, hogs and sheep on Pennsylvania farms during 1999 was \$1.54 billion, up 5 percent from the previous year. Cattle inventory was valued at \$1.46 billion on January 1, 2000, accounting for 95 percent of the total value of cattle, sheep and hogs in Pennsylvania. Sheep inventory, valued at \$9.6 million, accounted for 1 percent of the total. Hog inventory, valued at \$71.4 million on December 1, 1999, accounted for 4 percent of cattle, sheep and hog inventory value.

Cattle: All cattle in Pennsylvania totaled 1,640,000 head on January 1, 2000, down 2 percent from January 1, 1999. Of the total, 760,000 were cows and heifers that had calved. Milk cow inventory totaled 619,000, the same from one year earlier. The number of beef cows at 141,000 head, was down 7 percent from last year. Heifers 500 pounds and over totaled 360,000, down 10,000 head from the inventory on January 1, 1999. There were 280,000 heifers for dairy replacement and 40,000 for beef cow replacement. Steers 500 pounds and over totaled 165,000. A total of 25,000 bulls 500 pounds and over were on hand. Calves under 500 pounds totaled 330,000, unchanged from the previous year. The 1999 Pennsylvania calf crop totaled 670,000 head, 3 percent below the 1998 calf crop.

The gross income from beef production was \$383.8 million in 1999, up 9 percent from the previous year. There were 28,000 Pennsylvania farms having cattle during 1999, the same as 1998. Farms with milk cows decreased 200 from 1998 to 11,000. Pennsylvania ranked 4th in the United States in milk cow inventory on January 1, 2000, and 20th in cattle inventory.

Hogs: There were 1,050,000 hogs and pigs on Pennsylvania farms as of December 1, 1999, 50,000 head below the previous year. Breeding hog inventory, at 120,000 head, was also unchanged from the previous year. A total of 930,000 market hogs and pigs were on hand as of December 1, 1999, 50,000 head below last year.

Pennsylvania's pig crop in 1999 totaled 1,615,000, down 2 percent from 1998. A total of 184,000 sows farrowed in 1999, averaging 8.78 pigs per litter. The gross income from pork production was \$108.3 million for 1999, 11 percent less than in 1998. Hog farmers numbered 3,400 in 1999, 100 less than the previous year. Pennsylvania's hog inventory ranked 12th in the United States on December 1, 1999.

Sheep: January 1, 2000 sheep and lamb inventory totaled 80,000 head, down 4 percent from January 1, 1999. Commonwealth flocks included 68,000 breeding sheep and lambs and 12,000 market sheep and lambs.

The total lamb crop for 1999 was 70,000 lambs, down 3 percent from 1998. Wool production totaled 435,000 pounds, 35,000 pounds less than 1998 wool production.

The gross income from sheep production in 1999 was \$4.3 million, down 14 percent from 1998. The value of wool produced during the year was \$139,000, down 37 percent from 1998. Sheep farms numbered 2,500, down 100 from last year. Pennsylvania was tied with Missouri for 19th in the United States in sheep and lamb inventory as of January 1, 2000.

Red Meat Production: Pennsylvania red meat production, dressed weight basis, in commercial slaughter establishments totaled 1.19 billion pounds, up 5 percent from 1998. There were 326 commercial slaughter plants in Pennsylvania on January 1, 2000. Pennsylvania ranked 1st among all states in the number of commercial slaughter plants.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 1,006,000 head in 1999, 5 percent more than the previous year. Total live weight for cattle slaughtered was 1.25 billion pounds. Average live weight at 1,247 pounds was 17 pounds below the 1998 average. Slaughter of calves weighing less than 500 pounds totaled 187,100 head, down 3 percent from 1998. Total live weight for calves slaughtered was 60,972,000 pounds. The average live weight for calves, at 326 pounds, was up 9 pounds from 1998.

A total of 2,597,100 hogs were slaughtered in Pennsylvania in 1999, up 7 percent from 1998. Total live weight for hogs slaughtered was 630,921,000 pounds. The average live weight for hogs slaughtered was 243 pounds, up 5 pounds from 1998.

Sheep and lamb slaughter, at 74,700 head, was 6 percent above the previous year. Total live weight for sheep and lambs slaughtered was 7,159,000 pounds. Sheep slaughtered averaged 96 pounds live weight, down 3 pounds from the previous year.

Pennsylvania ranked 11th among all states in commercial red meat production in 1999. Pennsylvania's rankings by number of head slaughtered were: 6th for cattle, 1st for calves, 11th for hogs, and 6th for sheep.